

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTERGB3GH GB3CG GB3CCX GB7FD GB7GC GB7GH GB7RR GB7RC
GB7GLO GB7LGS

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CONTENTS**Page**

AGM REPORT	1
CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS	1
GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER	1
RECENT LICENCE CHANGES	1
GB7GH NODE	1
GB7FD NODE	1
GB7RT & GB7SR NODES	2
GB3CCX BEACON	2
GB7RC & GB7RL NODES	2
GB7LGS MAILBOX	2
GB7XJC MAILBOX	2
GB7GLO MAILBOX	2
TREASURERS REPORT	3
FOURPACK NEWS	3

contact either myself or our Technical Manager, Steve G4FPV.

Regarding new sites, we have been told that the 'GH' site may be sold off early next year and consequently two new sites have been identified to house the existing equipment. By using two sites more flexibility is available for later development. Additionally, subject to Repeater Management Committee (RSGB) approval, one site will provide enhanced coverage for the GB3GH 70cm voice repeater, whilst the other should improve trunk linking for the packet network.

Please, if you can spare a couple of hours one evening or at a weekend we would love to hear from you!

**Nick Negus
G6AWT**

AGM REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire Repeater Group took place at the CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham on Tuesday 18th April 2000 at which the following were elected to the Committee:

Chairman :	Nick Negus (G6AWT)
Secretary :	Graham Nye (G8URP)
Treasurer :	Stewart Wilkinson (G0LGS)
Technical Manager :	Steve Perkins (G4FPV)
Other Members :	Ken Easty (G3LVP)
	Martin Davies (G0HDB)
	Roger Dobbs (G7FGK)
	Mark Orchard (G0USL)
	Ron Fenn (G8CXR)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The holidays have come and gone and we can now all get back to doing some work. I wish! Over the last couple of months much has been going on to develop and improve the systems that GRG owns and operates and consequently 'holidays' have become 'workdays' for some of us. In this Newsletter you will find details of some of the work that has been completed; it includes new aerials at GB7GLO, aerial modifications at GB7RT and 'GH', liaison with planning authorities, acquisition of a replacement site, and on-going modification and building of equipment for GB7RC and GB7RL. Additionally some of us also look after the Fourpack sites where a similar amount of activity has also taken place.

We urgently need members to become more involved with the day-to-day and longer term work of the group. Jobs vary from mixing cement to fitting out a 19" rack to making up PCB kits. Please

GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER

Recent work carried out on the 2m Voice Repeater (GB3CG) includes installing a new Transmitter Crystal, and checking cavity alignment & Receiver sensitivity, as a result of this work the repeater through audio is much clearer.

RECENT LICENCE CHANGES

A number of licence changes came into effect on 8th September 2000 (following publication of the details in the usual gazettes), the most significant changes (as published) are:

- The use of unattended digital communications is no longer permitted on 70cm anywhere in the UK (except under GB7 Node / Mailbox site clearance).
- Restrictions have been placed on the use of unattended digital communications in the 1299 - 1300 MHz sub-band (except under GB7 Node / Mailbox site clearance) within 50Km of a number of specified locations.
- The use of unattended digital communications is no longer permitted in the 144 - 146 MHz band within 50Km of NGR TA012869 (West of Scarborough) (except under GB7 Node / Mailbox site clearance).
- There are a number of restrictions on use of beacons and station remote control devices on segments of some microwave bands within 50km of a number of locations, including GCHQ (Benhall) Cheltenham.

For further details of these changes and how they may effect you it is suggest you check the RSGB and Radio Communications Agency internet sites. (www.rsgb.org and www.radio.gov.uk although at the time of writing neither site appears to have the relevant information).

We are led to believe that SOME of these changes are not as they should be, and that they are likely to be subject to further revision.

GB7GH NODE

The GB7GH to GB7RT link has been operational for several weeks, however we have had problems with the ingress of water into the antenna connections at both ends of the link, this means that the link did not function as well as we expected. Work to dry out the connections and re-weather proof them has been completed.

An Alpha Test version of G8PZT's node software (PZTNODE) has recently been installed on one half of the GB7GH node (#GLOS:GB7GH-9), indications are that the new software is working satisfactorily. Statistics available in this new software show that the system is currently handling approx. 8MBytes of data per day.

The new software contains a number of features not seen in the G8BPQ Node, including a multi-user CHAT facility as well as a wider range of remote SYSOP facilities. The current issue is suitable for use with KISS TNC's only, but Paula will be adding support for SCC cards in a future update. In order to aid development of the software Paula (G8PZT@GB7PZT) would like to borrow SCC Cards (anyone got one that they are not currently using ?)

Work is in progress to upgrade the Link to Kidderminster (G8PZT) to Full duplex 1200 Baud (and maybe eventually to 9K6).

GB7FD NODE

Initial tests with PZTNODE node software were carried out at GB7FD in early September, but some functionality required for full operational use at this site was not provided in the version available at that time, however Paula soon made the changes required and the latest version of her software has now been installed.

Following changes to all Amateur Radio Licences (a summary of which is included elsewhere in this newsletter) which came into effect on 8th September, the 70cm user port at the FOD site has been removed from operation until an application for extending the GB7FD licence to cover this frequency has been processed. The frequency used on this port has not previously been available for clearance under the GB7 site clearance system and so was being used under the terms of my 'B' licence.

We are still awaiting any news from the site owner regarding the time-scale for replacement of the antenna mast.

**Stewart Wilkinson
G0LGS**

GB7RT & GB7SR NODES

The GB7RT <> GB7SR link has been operational for a couple of months now, but as mentioned above (see GB7GH) we have had some problems with the ingress of water into the antenna's at GB7RT and GB7GH.

GB3CCX BEACON

As reported in the March newsletter, the 10GHz Beacon was removed for a while to replace a faulty PA unit and check the system alignment. GB3CCX has now been re-installed and several reports have been received since (the first within an hour of it being turned back on).

GB7RC & GB7RL NODES

Work for GB7RC and GB7RL is ongoing, but has been slower than we had hoped, mainly due to the reduced availability (work commitments, illness and holidays) of those involved in carrying out much of the work.

GB7LGS MAILBOX

The 70cm user port which was announced in the last newsletter is now operational on 433.625 MHz.

The CHAT (convers) server at GB7LGS has been updated, and experiments with linking to other World Wide Convers systems (already available in some areas of the UK) are now underway. The link to other systems is currently available between 6.15pm - 6.30am (GMT) and most Weekends.

**Stewart Wilkinson
G0LGS**

GB7XJC MAILBOX

GB7XJC is a new TCP/IP mailbox based in Gloucester, the system is operated by Jon Colley (G4XJC) and has a user port on 144.925 MHz.

Like GB7LGS, GB7XJC has been given permission to exchange information over non-amateur radio networks, and Jon is currently experimenting with exchanging mail with some European Packet BBS's.

GB7XJC is also operating a CHAT (convers) server, with experimental links to the Internet World Wide Convers system.

For further information about GB7XJC you can email Jon at g4xjc@qsl.net or via packet G4XJC@GB7XJC.

GB7GLO MAILBOX

Some Antenna work has been carried out at the GB7GLO and MLVN node over the last few months, this means that the link to KIDDER node (G8PZT) which had deteriorated over the last year is now much improved, and that the high-speed (19K2) link via GB7RR is almost ready for full operational use.

A small number of GB7GLO users are now using passwords to access GB7GLO, this offers some protection against the unauthorised use of their callsigns to send or receive messages. One user has recently reported someone attempting to use his callsign to gain access to the system.

Over the last few months a number of users have sent me disks for passwords, but have not yet informed me that they wish password access to be enabled, if this applies to you please let me know so that the password can be enabled.

The Linux version of FBB software continues to provide good service, however whilst I was away for a short break recently, a short interruption to the mains power caused the computer to halt, after which it failed to reboot, this resulted in the mailbox being off air for a couple of days. Stewart (G0LGS) informs me that he has repaired an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) which was given to the group sometime ago, this will shortly be installed on GB7GLO and so should make the system much less susceptible to such problems.

Steve Perkins.
G4FPV

TREASURERS REPORT

The group attended the 3 Counties rally in Worcester earlier in the year, we raised a total of £156.20. This is down on previous years, partially due to illness, which prevented us taking some of the items we had to sell.

The group also sold a number of Microwave Items at the Microwave Round Table which was held by G.C.A.R.C in Cheltenham on Sunday 3rd September. Many of the Items sold were those that we were unable to take to the 3 Counties Rally.

A number of members have so far not renewed their membership this year, reminders for those people are included with this newsletter, please remember that the group needs your continued financial support in order that it can continue to run each of its systems.

Mark Trotman (G1FYC/G0TYA) has recently donated two sets of Plessey 23cm link Transmitters, Receivers and associated equipment. Mark informs us he has a number of other ones available for sale, call him on 01452 531648 for prices and further details.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

FOURPACK NEWS

FOURPACK say that they may finally have found an alternative destination for the long awaited northbound link from GB7WE. The sysop of the proposed site is currently looking at re-arranging his other links to make this possible (We hope to have more news on this next time).

The new 'official' Fourpack Web site can be found at <http://www.g8pzt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/fourpak/index.htm>, the site includes information about Fourpack committee members as well as a great deal of information on systems operated by both Fourpack and GRG.

Meetings: 8pm on Wednesday 27th September and 25th October at 'The Anchor' in Upton-Upon-Severn. (non-members are always welcome).